



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

April 2, 2008

**H.R. 3916
Border Security Technology Innovation Act of 2008**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science and Technology
on February 27, 2008*

SUMMARY

H.R. 3916 would extend the authorization for the Homeland Security Science and Technology Advisory Committee from December 31, 2008, through December 31, 2012. The bill also would direct the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to continue its current efforts to develop technologies to enhance the security of U.S. borders and to prepare several studies relating to such efforts.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3916 would cost \$7 million over the 2009-2012 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts.

H.R. 3916 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 3916 is shown in the following table. The cost of this legislation falls within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013

CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Estimated Authorization Level	4	1	1	1	0
Estimated Outlays	4	1	1	1	0

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year and that outlays will follow the historical spending rates for those activities.

Under current law, the authorization for the Homeland Security Science and Technology Advisory Committee will expire after December 31, 2008. H.R. 3916 would extend that authorization through December 31, 2012. The committee was established in 2002 and assists DHS in identifying research projects to improve national security. Based on the committee's spending in recent years, CBO estimates that this provision would cost about \$1 million annually over the 2009-2012 period, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

H.R. 3916 also would direct DHS and the National Research Council (NRC) to carry out field studies and prepare reports on various technological issues relating to border and maritime security. Based on information from DHS and NRC, we estimate that those activities would cost about \$3 million in fiscal year 2009.

In addition, H.R. 3916 would direct DHS to continue its current research programs relating to enhancing the use of unmanned aerial vehicles along U.S. borders, detecting tunnels near borders, and improving the security of identification documents. The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296) authorized the appropriation of the necessary sums for each fiscal year for DHS to carry out research to promote homeland security, and the Congress appropriated about \$800 million for fiscal year 2008 for such research and development activities (excluding funds for the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office). H.R. 3916 would direct DHS to focus on certain areas of research, but would not expand the scope of the department's authorized research programs.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 3916 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Mark Grabowicz

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Melissa Merrell

Impact on the Private Sector: Jacob Kuipers

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Assistant Director for Budget Analysis